recognize and understand that the steps of the presently claimed methods can take place in the presence of oxygen. Furthermore, it is well-established that the written description requirement may be met even though the specification does not have verbatim support for a claim amendment. Instead, the test is whether the specification conveys with reasonable clarity to those of ordinary skill in the art that, as of the filing date sought, applicant was in possession of the invention. Vas-Cath, Inc. v. Mahurkar, 935 F.2d 1555, 1563-64, 19 USPQ2d 1111, 1117 (Fed. Cir. 1991). M.P.E.P. § 2163.02. Applicants respectfully submit that the written description requirement is satisfied with respect to the present amendment. As such, no new matter has been added.

Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (amended herein) A method of producing a reducing catalyst, comprising:

a) heating a mixture of a ligand, a ruthenium complex, a secondary alcohol and a tertiary amine; and

b) removing the volatile components of the mixture, <u>wherein said method is performed in the presence of oxygen.</u>

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mixture of step a is heated from about 30 °C to about 150 °C.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the volatile components of the mixture are removed under a reduced pressure of between about 0.05 mm Hg to about 100 mm Hg.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the secondary alcohol is isopropanol.

5. (original) A method for preparing a reducing catalyst, comprising:

a) stirring a mixture of a ligand, a ruthenium complex, and a tertiary amine in a solvent; and

b) adding a 5:2 molar mixture of formic acid and triethyl amine.

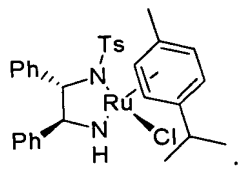
6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein the solvent comprises DMF.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the ligand is <u>N</u>-*p*-toluenesulfonyl-1,2-diphenylethylenediamine.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the ruthenium complex is $RuCl_2(\eta 6$-*p*-cymene).

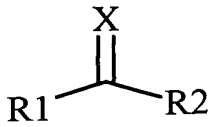
9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the tertiary amine is triethyl amine.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing catalyst is



11. (original) A reducing ~~calalyst~~ <u>catalyst</u> produced by the process of claim 1.

12. (original) A method for reducing ketones and imines of Formula I;



Formula I

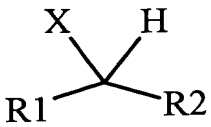
wherein R1 and R2 are independently selected from alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, substituted aryl and substituted heteroaryl;

X is O or N-R3; and

R3 is alkyl, heteroalkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, substituted aryl and substituted heteroaryl; or

R1 and R2 taken together may form a substituted or unsubstituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring of 3 to 12 members;

to produce alcohols or amines of Formula 2



Formula 2

wherein R1 and R2 are as described for Formula I; and

X is -OH or -NHR3, wherein R3 is as defined for Formula I;

said method comprising:

a) stirring a mixture of a ligand, a ruthenium complex, and a tertiary amine in a solvent followed by the addition of a 5:2 molar mixture of formic acid and triethyl amine; and

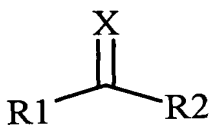
b) adding the ketone or imine to the mixture.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the solvent comprises DMF.

14. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the ligand is N-*p*-toluenesulfonyl-1,2-diphenylethylenediamine.

15. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the ruthenium complex is $RuCl_2(\eta 6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})$.

16. (amended herein) A method for reducing ketones and imines of Formula I;



Formula I

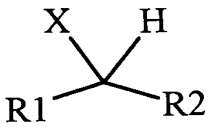
wherein R1 and R2 are independently selected from alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, substituted aryl and substituted heteroaryl;

X is O or N-R3; and

R3 is alkyl, heteroalkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, cycloheteroalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, substituted aryl and substituted heteroaryl; or

R1 and R2 taken together may form a substituted or unsubstituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring of 3 to 12 members;

to produce alcohols or amines of Formula 2



Formula 2

wherein R1 and R2 are as described for Formula I; and

X is -OH or -NHR3, wherein R3 is as defined for Formula I;

said method comprising:

a) heating a mixture of a ligand, a ruthenium complex, a secondary alcohol and a tertiary amine;

b) removing the volatile components of the mixture;

c) adding a solvent to the mixture; and

d) adding the ketone or imine to the mixture, wherein said method is performed in the presence of oxygen.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the solvent comprises DMF.

18. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the ligand is N-*p*-toluenesulfonyl-1,2-diphenylethylenediamine.

19. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the ruthenium complex is $RuCl_2(\eta 6\text{-}p\text{-cymene})$.